



**NEWS RELEASE
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**TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE CONTRACTOR DISCOVERS
ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK ON 21ST STREET**
Town Staff Commences Safe Removal

PURCELLVILLE, Va., (May 27, 2015) – Earlier this month, contractors working for the Town on the construction of the Downtown Streetscape Phase II improvement project, uncovered an underground storage tank within the right-of-way. This abandoned, empty tank was identified on the northeast side of the street in a small area in front 144 & 148 N. 21st Street.

Believing the tank could have the potential to cause the road to collapse if the tank loses its integrity, Town staff are taking necessary and immediate measures to remove it by working with the contractor and VDOT. This would eliminate any potential threat to the safety of the residents and travelers through this section of Purcellville as well as remove the possibility of the economic impact to the downtown businesses associated with the road being shut down.

“This discovery is unsettling, however, I am grateful to our contractors who found it”, said Town Manager Rob Lohr. “Even though the Town does not own the tank, I have directed our staff to handle its immediate and safe removal for the safety and protection of our residents and businesses,” he continued.

Town staff are now working with the regulatory agencies to make sure the tank is properly removed and are also seeking whether Federal and State funding may be available to help minimize the costs associated with the tank’s removal.

Based on the location of the service line, this tank was determined by Town staff to have been used to supply heating oil to the adjacent building prior to the conversion over to contemporary heating. One of the benefits of the Downtown Streetscape project is that this hazard was discovered and therefore, can be properly remediated.

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

Purcellville is an award-winning town of nearly 8,300 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 40 miles west of Washington, DC. It has been honored for its green initiatives, most recently with the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities. The Town has an elected Mayor and six Town Council members. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, Purcellville has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, entertainment, farmer’s markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.